



General Assembly

**Amendment**

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Offered by:

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To: Subst. House Bill No. 5723

File No. 585

Cal. No. 389

**"AN ACT AUTHORIZING TEACHERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO ONE-HALF THE COST OF RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLANS ESTABLISHED BY BOARDS OF EDUCATION."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Subsection (g) of section 10-183g of the general statutes is  
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
5 *1, 2006*):

6 (g) A member's complete formal application for retirement, if sent  
7 by mail, shall be deemed to have been filed with the board on the date  
8 such application is postmarked. No benefit computed under  
9 subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section and under subsections  
10 (a) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-183aa shall become effective until the  
11 end of the calendar month of the filing by the member with the board  
12 of a complete formal application for retirement. Such benefit shall

13 accrue from the first day of the month following such calendar month  
14 and payment of such benefit in equal monthly installments shall  
15 commence on the last day of the month in which such benefit begins to  
16 accrue. The initial payment of such benefit may be made not later than  
17 three months following the effective date of retirement, provided such  
18 payment shall be retroactive to such effective date. Upon a finding that  
19 extenuating circumstances relating to the health of a member caused a  
20 delay in the filing of the member's complete formal application, and  
21 such application is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem  
22 such application to have been filed up to three months earlier than the  
23 actual date of the filing. Upon a finding that extenuating circumstances  
24 related to the health of a member caused a delay in the filing of an  
25 election pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-183aa, and such  
26 election is filed on or after July 1, 1986, the board may deem such  
27 election to have been filed as of the date such member's benefits would  
28 otherwise have been converted to a normal retirement allowance,  
29 provided such member's disability allowance became effective on or  
30 before November 1, 1976, and such member attained the age of sixty  
31 on or after August 1, 1984.

32 Sec. 502. Section 10-183h of the general statutes is amended by  
33 adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

34 (NEW) (g) If a member who has filed an application for retirement  
35 dies prior to the effective date of retirement, such member's spouse, if  
36 such spouse is designated on such application as the sole beneficiary,  
37 may elect to receive either (1) the preretirement death benefits as set  
38 forth in this section, or (2) the benefit payment option selected by the  
39 deceased member on such retirement application.

40 Sec. 503. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-183t of the 2006  
41 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
42 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

43 (a) The retirement board shall offer one or more health benefit plans  
44 to: Any member receiving retirement benefits or a disability allowance

45 from the system; the spouse or surviving spouse of such member, and  
46 a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse or  
47 surviving spouse, provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse,  
48 or disabled dependent is participating in Medicare Part A hospital  
49 insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance. The board may offer  
50 one or more basic plans, the cost of which to any such member,  
51 spouse, surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall be one-third of  
52 the basic plan's premium equivalent, and one or more optional plans,  
53 provided such member, spouse, surviving spouse or disabled  
54 dependent shall pay one-third of the basic plan's premium equivalent  
55 plus the difference in cost between any such basic plans and any such  
56 optional plans. The board shall designate those plans which are basic  
57 and those plans which are optional for the purpose of determining  
58 such cost and the amount to be charged or withheld from benefit  
59 payments for such plans. The surviving spouse of a member, or a  
60 disabled dependent of a member if there is no surviving spouse, shall  
61 not be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such  
62 surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from  
63 the system. With respect to any person participating in any such plan,  
64 the state shall appropriate to the board one-third of the cost of such  
65 basic plan or plans, or one-third of the cost of the rate in effect during  
66 the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, whichever is greater.

67 (b) Any member who is receiving retirement benefits or a disability  
68 allowance from the system, the spouse or surviving spouse of such  
69 member, or a disabled dependent of such member if there is no spouse  
70 or surviving spouse, and who is not participating in Medicare Part A  
71 hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance, may fully  
72 participate in any or all group health insurance plans maintained for  
73 active teachers by such member's last employing board of education,  
74 or by the state in the case of a member who was employed by the state,  
75 upon payment to such board of education or to the state, as applicable,  
76 by such member, spouse or surviving spouse, or disabled dependent,  
77 of the premium charged for his form of coverage. Such premium shall  
78 be no greater than that charged for the same form of coverage for

79 active teachers. The surviving spouse or disabled dependent shall not  
80 be ineligible for participation in any such plan solely because such  
81 surviving spouse or disabled dependent is not receiving benefits from  
82 the system. No person shall be ineligible for participation in such plans  
83 for failure to enroll in such plans at the time the member's retirement  
84 benefit or disability allowance became effective. Nothing in this  
85 subsection shall be construed to impair or alter the provisions of any  
86 collective bargaining agreement relating to the payment by a board of  
87 education of group health insurance premiums on behalf of any  
88 member receiving benefits from the system. Prior to the cancellation of  
89 coverage for any member, spouse or surviving spouse for failure to  
90 pay the required premiums or cost due, the board of education or the  
91 state, if applicable, shall notify the Teachers' Retirement Board of its  
92 intention to cancel such coverage at least thirty days prior to the date  
93 of cancellation. Absent any contractual provisions to the contrary, the  
94 payments made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be first  
95 applied to any cost borne by the member, spouse or surviving spouse  
96 participating in any such plan. As used in this subsection, "last  
97 employing board of education" means the board of education with  
98 which such member filed his initial application for retirement, and  
99 "health insurance plans" means hospital, medical, major medical,  
100 dental, prescription drug or auditory benefit plans that are available to  
101 active teachers.

102 Sec. 504. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is  
103 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
104 *1, 2006*):

105 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this  
106 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of  
107 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this  
108 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a  
109 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the  
110 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each  
111 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided  
112 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such

113 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;  
114 and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service described in  
115 this subsection. In no event, however, may any service described in  
116 this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or is, or will  
117 become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon such  
118 service from any governmental system other than the teachers'  
119 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional  
120 credited service includes:

121 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents  
122 established by the United States Department of Defense;

123 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its  
124 territories or possessions;

125 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as  
126 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the  
127 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

128 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

129 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July  
130 1, 1965;

131 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North  
132 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

133 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to  
134 September 1, 1948;

135 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted  
136 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least  
137 one school year;

138 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the  
139 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington  
140 Children's Hospital;

141 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the  
142 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public  
143 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,  
144 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of  
145 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

146 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than  
147 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed  
148 thirty months;

149 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any  
150 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or  
151 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least  
152 one school year;

153 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the  
154 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; [and]

155 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps; and

156 (15) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a social work  
157 assistant, from January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1986, inclusive, if such  
158 member became a certified school social worker and remained in  
159 public school service as a social worker after certification."